



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 6823***

LCO No. 3967

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in this section, "election day" means  
2       the day on which a regular election, as defined in section 9-1 of the  
3       general statutes, is held.

4       (b) In addition to the procedures for admission of electors under  
5       chapter 143 of the general statutes, a person who (1) is not an elector  
6       and does not have a pending application for admission as elector  
7       under said chapter, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under  
8       subsection (a) of section 9-12 of the general statutes, may apply for  
9       admission as an elector on election day.

10       (c) Any such application shall be made in accordance with the  
11       provisions of section 9-20 of the general statutes, provided (1) the  
12       applicant shall appear in person at the office of the registrars of voters  
13       on election day, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an  
14       institution of higher education may submit a current photo  
15       identification card issued by said institution in lieu of the identification

16 required by said section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under  
17 oath that the applicant is not, to the applicant's knowledge, already  
18 properly admitted as an elector and has not previously voted in the  
19 election. If the registrars determine that an applicant is qualified and  
20 admit the applicant as an elector, the registrars shall give the applicant  
21 a notice of acceptance which indicates the applicant's voting district  
22 and polling place. On and after the date that the Secretary of the State  
23 certifies to the General Assembly that the state-wide centralized voter  
24 registration system is fully operational, pursuant to section 3 of this  
25 act, the registrars shall check said system before admitting an applicant  
26 as an elector in order to determine whether the applicant is an elector  
27 in another municipality in the state.

28 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is  
29 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

30 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has  
31 entered the polling place, [he] the elector shall (1) announce [his] the  
32 elector's street address, if any, and [his] the elector's name to the  
33 checkers in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the  
34 election officials present to hear the same, and (2) (A) present to the  
35 checkers [his] the elector's Social Security card or any other preprinted  
36 form of identification which shows [his] the elector's name and either  
37 [his] the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (B) sign a  
38 statement under penalty of false statement, on a form prescribed by  
39 the Secretary of the State, that [he] the elector is the elector whose  
40 name appears on the official checklist. Each of the checkers shall check  
41 the name of such elector on the official checklist. In the case of an  
42 elector who is admitted on election day under section 1 of this act, the  
43 elector shall also present to the moderator the notice of acceptance  
44 given to the elector under said section 1, and the moderator shall add  
45 the elector's name and address to the official checklist on such day and  
46 the elector shall be allowed to vote if otherwise eligible to vote.

47 Sec. 3. (NEW) Upon determining that the state-wide centralized

48 voter registration system is fully completed and operational, the  
49 Secretary of the State shall certify such completion to the General  
50 Assembly.

51 Sec. 4. Section 9-158b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
52 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

53 [(a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of  
54 age, is a resident or former resident and who has not forfeited his  
55 electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime, may vote for  
56 presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no other offices, in  
57 the town in this state in which he resides, or formerly resided in the  
58 manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-158m, inclusive.]

59 [(b)] Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years  
60 of age; who resides outside the United States and who, immediately  
61 prior to moving outside the United States, was a bona fide resident of a  
62 town in this state; who is not registered to vote and is not voting in any  
63 other state or election district of a state or territory or in any territory  
64 or possession of the United States, who has a valid passport or card of  
65 identity and registration issued under the authority of the Secretary of  
66 State of the United States or alternative form of identification and who  
67 has not forfeited his electoral privileges because of a disfranchising  
68 crime, may vote in federal elections in the town in this state in which  
69 he formerly resided immediately prior to his departure from the  
70 United States in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-158m,  
71 inclusive. The exercise of any right to vote in federal elections by any  
72 citizen outside the United States shall not affect the determination of  
73 his place of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed  
74 under federal, state or local law.

75 Sec. 5. Section 9-158c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
76 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

77 [(a) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not later  
78 than the close of the polls on election day, each resident, or former

79 resident who desires to vote in a presidential election under sections 9-  
80 158a to 9-158m, inclusive, may apply for a "presidential ballot" to the  
81 municipal clerk of the town in which he is qualified to vote on the  
82 form prescribed in section 9-158d. Application for a "presidential  
83 ballot" may be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for  
84 applying for an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided  
85 in said sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.]

86 [(b)] (a) Each overseas elector who desires to vote in a federal  
87 election under [subsection (b) of] section 9-158b may apply for an  
88 overseas ballot not earlier than (1) the forty-fifth day preceding a  
89 federal election which is a general election or a general election held in  
90 conjunction with a special election, and (2) the thirtieth day preceding  
91 a federal election which is a primary or a federal election which is a  
92 special election not held in conjunction with a general election.  
93 Application shall be made to the town clerk of the municipality in  
94 which [he] the elector is so qualified to vote on a form prescribed in  
95 [subsection (b) of] section 9-158d.

96 [(c)] (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of  
97 subsection [(b)] (a) of this section, in any year in which the date of a  
98 primary is advanced pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
99 section 9-376, overseas electors may not apply for an overseas ballot  
100 earlier than the fortieth day preceding a federal election which is a  
101 general election or a general election held in conjunction with a special  
102 election.

103 Sec. 6. Section 9-158d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
104 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

105 [(a) The application for a presidential ballot shall be a form signed in  
106 duplicate by the applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee  
107 balloting, which shall provide substantially as follows:

108 To the Town Clerk of the Town of .... Connecticut

109 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in  
110 absentee balloting that the following statements are true:

111 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

112 2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction  
113 of a disfranchising crime.

114 3. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next presidential election,  
115 I shall be at least 18 years of age. Check and complete 4 or 5, whichever  
116 applies:

117 4. RESIDENT. I am a bona fide resident of the above town, to which  
118 I am making this application, and I reside at .... Street. I moved to said  
119 town on the .... day of ..., 20... Before becoming a resident of said town,  
120 I resided at .... Street, in the Town of .... County of ..., State of ....

121 5. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above town,  
122 to which I am making this application, and resided at .... Street therein.  
123 I moved from such town to my present town of residence on the ....  
124 day of ..., 20.., being within thirty days before the date of the next  
125 presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to vote in  
126 said presidential election in my present town of residence. I am now a  
127 bona fide resident of the Town of ..., in the state of ..., now residing at  
128 .... Street therein.

129 6. I hereby apply for a "presidential ballot" for the election to be held  
130 on ..., 20... I have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by this  
131 ballot at that election. I am not eligible to vote for electors of President  
132 and Vice-President in any other town in Connecticut or in any other  
133 state.

134 7. The said ballot is to be given to me personally mailed to me at  
135 .... (bona fide mailing address)

136 Dated at ..., this .... day of .... 20...

137 ... (Signature of applicant)]

138 [(b)] The application for an overseas ballot shall be the federal  
139 application permitted under section 9-153a or a form signed by the  
140 applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting which  
141 shall provide substantially as follows:

142 To the Town Clerk of the Town of ..., Connecticut

143 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in  
144 absentee balloting that the following statements are true:

145 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

146 2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction  
147 of a disfranchising crime.

148 3. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next federal election, I  
149 shall be at least eighteen years of age.

150 4. I was a resident of the above town, to which I am making this  
151 application, and resided at no. .... Street therein. I moved from such  
152 town to my present residence on the .... day of ..., 20... I now reside in  
153 ..., at no. .... Street therein.

154 5. I have a valid passport or card of identity and registration issued  
155 under the authority of the Secretary of State of the United States or  
156 alternate form of identification.

157 6. I hereby apply for an overseas ballot for the ( ) Primary

158 ( ) General Election

159 ( ) Special Election

160 to be held on ..., 20... I do not maintain a domicile in any other state  
161 or election district of any state or territory or any territory or  
162 possession of the United States. I have not voted and will not vote

163 otherwise than by this ballot at such election or primary for which I  
164 now apply for an overseas ballot. I am not eligible to vote in any town  
165 in Connecticut or in any other state or election district of any state or  
166 territory or any territory or possession of the United States.

167 7. The said ballot is to be mailed to me at ....

168 .... (Mailing address)

169 Dated at ..., this ... day of ..., 20...

170 .... (Signature of applicant)

171 Sec. 7. Section 9-158e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
172 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

173 [(a) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under  
174 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, the clerk, if satisfied that the  
175 application is proper and that the applicant is qualified to vote under  
176 said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the applicant, as the case  
177 may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-presidential electors for use  
178 at the election and instructions and envelopes for its return. At such  
179 time the clerks shall also mail a duplicate of the application to the  
180 appropriate official of (1) the state or the town in this state in which the  
181 applicant last resided in the case of an applicant who is a resident, or  
182 (2) the state or the town in this state in which the applicant now resides  
183 in the case of an applicant who is a former resident.]

184 [(b)] Upon receipt of an application for an overseas ballot, the clerk,  
185 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is  
186 qualified to vote at the federal election for which the application is  
187 made, pursuant to the provisions of sections 9-158b to 9-158m,  
188 inclusive, shall forthwith mail a ballot containing the names and offices  
189 of the candidates for federal office and instructions and envelopes for  
190 its return to the applicant.

191 Sec. 8. Section 9-158f of the general statutes is repealed and the

192 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

193 [(a) The voter, after marking his presidential ballot so as to express  
194 his choice, shall fold it so as to conceal the markings, and enclose it in  
195 an inner envelope furnished by the town clerk for such purpose. The  
196 envelope shall have imprinted upon its back a statement which shall  
197 be signed by the voter. The failure of the voter to date the statement  
198 shall not invalidate the ballot. Such statement shall be substantially as  
199 follows:

200 **Certification of Presidential Voter**

201 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
202 statement in absentee balloting that:

203 (1) I am qualified to vote for Presidential and Vice-Presidential  
204 electors in the town of .... Connecticut, at the presidential election to be  
205 held on November ...., 20...

206 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote  
207 for Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors at said election from any  
208 other town, city, county or state, and

209 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
210 in said presidential election.

211 Dated at ...., this .... day of .... 20...

212 .... (Signature of voter)]

213 [(b)] The overseas elector, after marking [his] the elector's overseas  
214 ballot so as to express [his] the elector's choice, shall fold it so as to  
215 conceal the markings and enclose it in an inner envelope furnished by  
216 the town clerk for such purpose. The envelope shall have imprinted  
217 upon its back a statement which shall be signed by the elector. The  
218 failure of the elector to date the statement shall not invalidate the  
219 ballot. The statement shall be substantially as follows:



220 Certification of Overseas Elector

221 I, the undersigned, do hereby state under the penalties of false  
222 statement in absentee balloting that:

223 (1) I am qualified to vote for candidates for federal office in the town  
224 of ..., Connecticut, at the federal election to be held on ..., 20...

225 (2) I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, for a ballot to vote  
226 for candidates for federal office at said election from any other town,  
227 city or county in Connecticut or in any other state or election district of  
228 any state or territory or any territory or possession of the United States.

229 (3) I have not voted, and I will not vote otherwise than by this ballot  
230 in said federal election.

231 Dated at ..., this ... day of..., 20...

232 .... (Signature of overseas elector)

233 Sec. 9. Section 9-158h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
234 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

235 The clerk shall prepare and keep open to public inspection a list of  
236 all persons who have applied under sections 9-158a to 9-158m,  
237 inclusive, to vote as [presidential voters or] overseas electors with their  
238 names, voting addresses and application dates together with the serial  
239 number of the return envelopes issued, and shall maintain an  
240 alphabetical index of the list for a period of one hundred eighty days  
241 after the election or primary.

242 Sec. 10. Section 9-158i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
243 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

244 The Secretary of the State shall prepare, print and distribute to the  
245 town clerk in each town in this state, a sufficient number of ballots and  
246 other necessary forms to be used by the persons eligible to vote for [the  
247 offices of presidential electors or] federal offices under the provisions

248 of sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive. The words ["Presidential Ballot"  
249 or] "Overseas Ballot" shall appear on each such ballot and no such  
250 ballot shall afford any opportunity to vote for any office or officer  
251 except [presidential electors or] federal offices. The Secretary of the  
252 State may make any changes in any forms prescribed by, or provided  
253 for, in said sections which, in the opinion of the secretary, are  
254 necessary to cause said forms to conform to the provisions of  
255 applicable federal law.

256 Sec. 11. Section 9-158j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
257 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

258 Upon receipt of an application for a ["Presidential Ballot" or] an  
259 "Overseas Ballot" the town clerk shall forthwith notify the registrars of  
260 voters of the applicant's name, with a notation designating him as a  
261 person voting for [presidential and vice-presidential electors or]  
262 federal offices only. [If the name of a presidential voter who is a former  
263 resident appears on the registry list, the registrars shall insert the  
264 letters "pf" in the margin preceding his name.] The registrars shall  
265 prepare a list of names and addresses of [presidential voters and]  
266 overseas electors whose names do not appear on the registry list, for  
267 each voting district, which list shall accompany the check list to be  
268 used at such election in such district. [The registrars shall insert the  
269 letters "pf" in the margin of such list of presidential voters preceding  
270 the name of each applicant who is a former resident.]

271 Sec. 12. Section 9-158k of the general statutes is repealed.

272 Sec. 13. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002, and shall be  
273 applicable to elections held after said date.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To allow people to register to vote and cast ballots on the day of a regular state or municipal election.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

